



COLONA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

December 2019 NEWSLETTER
Sunday Worship 8:00 am & 10:30 am
Sunday school 9:10 am
1709 Cleveland Road - Colona, Illinois 61241
(309) 792-1661
E-mail: colonaumc2@mchsi.com
Office Hours: 9:00 am – 1:00 pm M-F

WE'RE INVITING

Christianity 101?

Do you have questions about faith, baptism, Holy Communion, who is John Wesley, or even "How do we get better acquainted with the bible"?

Well there is a place to find answers to your questions. Beginning Sunday, January 12th, during the Sunday School hour (9:10 a.m.), Pastor Mark will lead a study to help your understanding.

If there is interest another class may be held on an evening. You are asked to sign up so material can be made available to everyone.

Book Club

There is no meeting scheduled in December. Our next meeting is scheduled on January 14, 2020.

"The Dearly Beloved," by Cara Wall is our next selection. The phrase, most familiar from Christian marriage liturgy, comes from St. Paul's letters, and it conveys a tenderness that is simultaneously private, as when a husband says it to his wife, and public, as when an officiant says it to the congregation that witnesses their union. That dual economy is at work throughout the novel, which focuses on two ministers and their marriages: one to an atheist who wants nothing to do with the church, the other to the daughter of a minister who is happy to live in the rectory and lead the choir.

Hanging of the Greens – December 1st

Please join us for a potluck lunch. We will decorate the church immediately thereafter. Everyone is invited! Get in the spirit of Christmas as we get the Church ready to celebrate Christ's birth.

United Methodist Women

At the November meeting a budget for 2020 was prepared. Nadine Garbett was hostess. The next regular meeting is January 16, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. at the Church. All women are invited.

Barb Searle is hosting this year's Christmas UMC potluck at her home, 8469 Quarry Road, Colona, commencing at 11:30 a.m. Please bring a dish to share and enjoy a good time together. Let Barb know if you plan to attend.

Christmas Bazaar – December 14th

The UMW will have a Christmas Bazaar again this year with the Cookie Walk on December 14, commencing at 9:00 a.m. Any donations are appreciated. There will be a second-hand table for "much loved, but not needed" Christmas items.

This year's proceeds from the Cookie Walk will go to supplement a lunch program for the school children of Touin, Haiti. Life has become more difficult due to political demonstrations, blocked roads and rising prices on food and gasoline. Donations of three or four dozen cookies (holiday or your specialty) are needed. With God's help we can make a difference.

United Methodist Men

Thanks to those who bring their cans in regularly and to those who supported the Aluminum can drive. Money from the cans all year covered the cost of the meat for Trunk 'n Treat.

Thursday Prayer Vigil – December 5th

Please stop by for our Prayer Vigil on Thursday, December 5th from 8:30 am to 8:30 pm. This is a good time to close out distractions and share in a time of prayer for our community, our Church and personal requests from the congregation. All are welcome to fill out a prayer request to be included the day of the Prayer Vigil. Prayer Request forms circulate the Sunday before the Vigil. You can also pick up a Prayer Request in the office.

Wednesday Quilting

The quilters are still active on Wednesdays from 8:00 am – 2:00 pm. Anyone who has a quilt top and would like to have it hand quilted should see Barb Searle or Carol McCarty. The money raised by the quilters will fund the kitchenette in the addition.

Pack Candy Boxes – December 10th

All are welcome to join us for a potluck at 6:00 p.m. and packing candy boxes afterward.

Christmas UMW Potluck – December 5th

Barb Searle is hosting this year's Christmas UMC potluck at her home, 8469 Quarry Road, Colona, commencing at 11:30 a.m. She will furnish the place settings, plus beverages. Please bring a dish to share and enjoy a good time together. Let Barb know if you plan to attend so that she knows how many will be joining in the festivities.



Breakfast with Mary and Joseph – December 7th

Come join Mary & Joseph for a fun morning of breakfast, crafts, and stories. Welcoming ages kindergarten thru 6th grade on December 7th from 8:30am to 1:00pm if staying for lunch. Volunteers are needed as well. For more information please contact Peg Emmert at 309-231-2657.

UMW Cookie Walk & Bazaar- December 14th

30th Annual Cookie Walk

Saturday, December 14th – Doors open at 9:00 a.m.

Cookies - \$8.00 per lb. – Free coffee

The United Methodist Women would appreciate your donation and/or participation for this year's annual Cookie Walk. Bazaar items will also be available! Donations may be brought to the church on Friday, December 7th until 5:00 pm or on Saturday at 8:00 am. The ladies of the United Methodist Women thank you!

Children's Christmas Service – December 15th

Children & youth of the church will led both the 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. services. The next practice is Wednesday, December 11th at 6:00 pm to 6:45 pm. Supper will be served at 5:30 p.m. If you are interested, but cannot attend, please contact the office or Susan Koska at 796-0667.

Christmas Cantata – December 22nd

Messiah Heaven's Glory - Long ago, a Baby was born in Bethlehem that would change the world. He came as our Messiah, to redeem and deliver us. Come spend an evening listening to the choir sing and enjoy a light supper after. The evening will begin at 5:30 pm. Bring family and friends and begin the week of Christmas with a fun filled evening.

Christmas Eve Offering – December 24th

The Christmas Eve offering this year will be donated to the Midwest Missions Distribution Center. The Christmas Eve offering is different than the Christmas Envelopes you received in the bulletin. The envelopes go to support the church budget, even if they are dropped in on Christmas Eve.

WE'RE GROWING

Worship Schedule

December 1st Isaiah 2:1-5 "The Right Way" Holy Communion	1 st Sunday of Advent
December 8th Matthew 11:2-11 "Changed Lives"	2 nd Sunday of Advent
December 15th Children's Christmas Program	3 rd Sunday of Advent
December 22th Matthew 1:18-15 "Change of Plans"	4 th Sunday of Advent
December 24th Luke 2:1-20 "Do You Hear What I Hear?"	
December 29th Daniel Skelton Preaching	
Hymn Sing – Taking requests on December 8 th and 15 th	

Choir

Junior Choir welcomes children of the Church from 4 years old and up to 8th grade. They meet on Wednesday evenings from 6:00 p.m. to 6:45 p.m. Senior choir welcomes anyone from 9th grade and up; they meet on Wednesday evenings from 7:00 – 7:45. Supper is served prior to choir practice at 5:30 pm for all who want to come and enjoy. If you have any questions please contact the church office at (309) 792-1661.

Acolytes needed

If your child is interested in being an acolyte we would like to welcome them to the program. The main requirement is that they be able to reach the candles!!! We will be putting together a schedule for the next six months for both 1st and 2nd service. Please let Jo Anne Hillman (309) 314-2073 or the office know if your child is interested as soon as possible. May we all work together to bring the light of Christ not only to our worship service but out into our world as well. God Bless!

Sunday School News

We completed our Heifer challenge "Cover Me With Love" 50 hearts @ \$100 each = \$5,000, but you can still give. How far over the \$5000 mark can we go? Thanks for being a part of changing lives around the world.

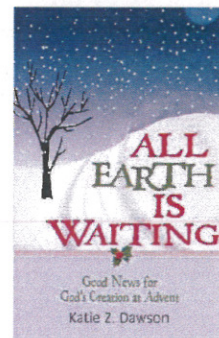
Join us for a celebration during fellowship hour on December 8th and come to the Sunday School gathering at 9:50 a.m. that day to find out how much we actually collected over the last 10 months.

Monday Morning Bible Study

Join us & make time to study the Word! Coffee and donuts provided, just bring your Bible! We will meet on the December 2nd & 16th at 10:30 a.m.

Advent Bible Study

This Advent Season join us as we prepare for Christmas with "All Earth is Waiting" by Katie Z. Dawson. All Earth Is Waiting invites readers to explore the familiar Advent themes of hope, preparation, joy, and peace with the heavens and earth in mind. This 4 week bible study has begun. It is never too late to join; please see Judy Smith.



A Cup of Joseph in the Upper Room

Our purpose can be summed up by Philippians 3:10. "That I may know Him and the power of his reservation and the fellowship of his suffering...." 12% of the men in our congregation gather on an alternating Monday evening in front of the Fellowship Hall fire place. 88% of the men do not. Consider joining us and "get to know Him."

Weekly Servants

It is that time of the year again. We are looking for ushers, greeters, liturgists, nursery helpers, acolytes and helpers, trustee's helpers (lawn care, weeding help, and general church pick-up) and money counters for 2020. If you have not been asked in the past and would like to serve or serve in a different capacity, please fill out a "servant volunteer" sheet from the welcome desk and return to the "in box" in the office.

WE'RE SERVING

December Servants

Head Ushers 8:00 am – Sarah Browning

10:30 a.m. – Lindy Anderson

Acolytes 8:00 am – Payton Hillman

10:30 am – Addilyn & Zaiden Swan

Date	8:00 Liturgist	10:30 Liturgist	10:30 Greeter
December 1st	Barb Searle	Linda Marcus	Marilyn Schaab & Doug Morris
December 8th	Logan Loitz	Kyle Douglas	Barb & Denny Roberts
December 15th	Church Youth	Church Youth	Church Youth
December 22nd	Curt Frerichs	Wendy Baker	
		10:00 Liturgist	10:00 Greeter
December 29th		Tony Rokis	Judy Smith

MISSION CORNER

Christian Care

Thank you to all the volunteers who cooked and served in 2019. Look for 2020 dates coming in January.

Colombia Missions 2020

Brisas Del Mar, San Onofre, Colombia

Help Hannah Molina Make a Difference Abroad – July 11-18

Twenty-five years ago, the small village of Brisas del Mar, Colombia suffered a population deficit due to the hands of drug cartels. Because of this tragedy, an entire generation has been missing from this community.

Grandparents are raising twenty year olds, and the twenty year olds are raising the children and infants. The Colombian Methodist Church has paired up with other Methodist churches to provide refuge for these families. The Colombian Church takes part in organizing the schools, medical clinic, and providing a feeding program for the students.

High School students from the Armstrong Chapel Church in Ohio, along with our church member, Hannah Thomas Molina, will be traveling a week to help construction on the local church and school, work within the clinic, and spread the ministry with the Brisas del Mar community.

All donations will be used to help fund the construction material, travel expenses and equipment needed in the local clinics. Checks can be made to Hannah Molina or she has a "Go Fund Me" page.

Thanksgiving Baskets

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who participated in this year's collection for the Thanksgiving Baskets. Due to your generosity and kindness, seventeen (17) baskets were distributed.

Angel Tree

The Angel Tree is up. There will be Angel tree helpers near the tree on Sunday if you need help finding the type of Angel you would like to buy for. Angel Tree gifts are due back unwrapped on December 8th.

In case your tag happens to go missing, the most important information on it is the Family number and the age and gender of the child. Laura has a complete list of all the tags. If you have that information, she can tell you what was requested on the tag. As always, for those who do not like the thrill of the Christmas season shopping rush, Laura would be more than happy to do it for you. Just have the tags and the amount of money you would like to spend and she will get it done for you! Doesn't get any easier than that, no need to drive around in blizzard conditions trying to find that wish tag item that no one seems to have, it will magically show up to church ready to go. From Missions, we thank you for your generosity.

Reverse Advent Bags – December 1st – 24th

Starting December 1st, place a non-perishable food item in the bag every day until December 24th. On Christmas Eve bring the bag back to the church and place under the upside down tree. Filled bags may be returned and placed under the tree at any time. All donations will go to the Colona Food Pantry. Pick up a Christmas decorated yellow bag from near the Angel Tree.

Colona Food Pantry

Help feed those in need right here in your community! 100% of your donation goes to the Colona Food Pantry and helps provide food for a family in need. We donate on the first Sunday each month. Place your donated, nonperishable food item(s) in the grocery cart in the Narthex. Cash donations are also accepted.

Finance Team

January - September 2019	income	disbursements	difference
General Operating Budget:	\$136,480.00	\$132,086.22	\$ 4,393.18
Mortgage Payment:	\$ 27,597.72	\$ 25,183.62	\$ 2,414.10
October 2019			
General Operating Budget:	\$14,516.58	\$14,163.43	\$ 353.15
Mortgage Payment:	\$ 2,046.26	\$ 2,798.18	-\$ 751.92

The mortgage payment fund has been gradually losing ground all year, current we are below the single month payment mark. Please consider a gift to this fund to continue to build the reserves, thanks. Many thanks to those who support our ministries even when not present in worship.

Thanks to all who have completed and returned their Estimate of Giving card. If you need a blank one, see the Welcome Desk.

The Gift of Hospitality

Do you enjoy the time between Sunday school and the 10:30 church service? We call it Fellowship Time, because it has been a successful effort to get to know more of our church family.

If you would like to be a host/hostess, please talk to Barb Searle. The snacks can be very simple and someone will be available to help you. There have been almost 8-10 people who have been generously supplying goodies. Some of our faithful cooks have passed on or moved away.

There is a sign-up sheet in the kitchen so that we know each week is filled and we don't double up. If hospitality is one of your gifts please help. Thank you, Barb Searle

Trustees

If you adjust the thermostat, please return it to its programmed setting as you leave. When you notice a maintenance issue the Trustees need to address please write it down and put it in the Trustees' mailbox. Thanks to those who help keep the property and building looking neat and clean. Fall cleanup date November 2 was a great success. Many hands made for light work. Thanks for your participation.

Building Completion Team

Thanks to those who continue to donate to the "finish addition fund" and thanks to those who have supported the building project and mortgage and continue to do so. Cabinetry, doors, shelves are being installed, and plumbing is underway.

MYF – Thank You

Thank you to everyone who donated a pot of soup, a dessert for the auction, or bid on the desserts. We raised over \$800 to be used for our youth group activities. There were some very delicious soups and desserts! What a great afternoon of fellowship!!

Stewardship Breakfast

Thank you to all who joined us for Finance's Stewardship Breakfast. The food was delicious and plentiful. We hope everyone has had a chance to sign and turn in their green slip stating your continued support for the Colona United Methodist Church and its ministries. You may still turn those in to Judy Smith or place in the offering plate.



Thank you to all who visited me, sent cards, phoned me and more. I am feeling much better and will see you at church soon. Joan Elsbury

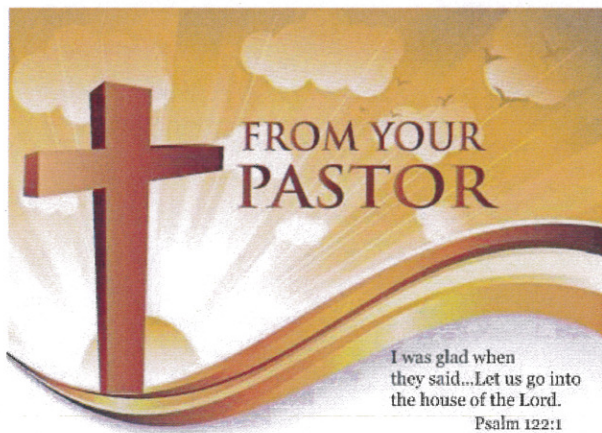
December Birthdays

Melinda Anderson	12/2	Gary Rehn	12/20
Dick Baum	12/3	Ray Teager	12/20
Justice Schofield	12/4	Kenzi Hasson	12/21
Aaron Schofield	12/4	Karoline Hasson	12/21
Peggy Emmert	12/4	Duane Baker	12/21
Sandra Skelton	12/7	Judy Smith	12/22
Mandi Guyer	12/7	Dave Medley	12/24
Ted Anderson	12/20	Dwight Medley	12/27
Payton Hillman	12/11	Randi Haley	12/27
Wendy Loitz	12/12	John Browning	12/28
Glenn Ruud	12/14	Michael King	12/29
Colton Boyles	12/15	Levi Schofield	12/30
Lila Snook	12/17	Tere Holmes	12/30
Payten Martens	12/19	JoAnne Hillman	12/30
Keeli Frerichs	12/19	Craig Anderson	12/31

December Anniversaries

Mike & Martie Eves

21 years



A Moment With You

The Sunday edition of the Dispatch-Argus had a headline which states – Contractor says bridge “unbuildable”. For those of us in the Quad City area who have been waiting patiently (my term) for construction to be completed this is certainly not good news. Some may say, “well, why didn’t they figure that out before they ever got started?” After all, when you spend the kind of money they are investing in the construction it only seems as if that should have been determined well ahead of time. Now, who knows what is to come. All we, the residents of the area, know for sure is that we wait.

Well, I am thankful that another bridge once thought by many that could never possibly be built was in fact completed.

Long ago after generations of hope, prophecy, and waiting, the construction of the bridge to eternal life began, not with a major marketing campaign, not with an Instagram, or a tweet or a Facebook post but it was an announcement almost too quiet. Even though there had been word that it would take place, folks I believe had long given up on the notion that it would happen in their lifetime.

From across the cosmos and the many generations what had seemed impossible became possible when God sent his Son into the world so that the needed unbuildable bridge was constructed because of the great chasm caused by sin. From heaven to Bethlehem, from Bethlehem to Jerusalem, the bridge you and I will cross to come to Jesus has been built.

That which skeptics had said would not, could not, and will not ever happen, did! That which we thought unbuildable because of our own sins has been built. Our perspective is often terribly obscured by our own limitations we have succumbed to through years of sin and falling for Satan’s way of thinking. But the good news we remember and are preparing to celebrate again is that precious gift, the most precious gift is Jesus, the Christ.

The hymn, *In the Bleak Midwinter*, words convey our hearts and minds, the unbuildable was truly buildable. In the bleak midwinter, frosty winds moaned, earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone; snow had fallen, snow on snow... as if there is no hope, when it seems darkness will prevail, comes our God.

May the Christ be born in your heart this Christmas. That which seemed unbuildable and impossible has come.

Merry Christmas!



December 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	
1 Holy Communion 1st Sunday of Advent Reverse Advent Bags (thru 25 th) 11:45 am Hanging of the Greens and Potluck	2 9:00 am Staff meeting 10:30 am Bible Study 6:30 pm Praise Team	3 2:00 – 4:00 pm ERF 6:30 pm Trustees	4 9 – 2 pm Quilting 5:30 pm Supper 6 – 6:45 pm Junior Choir 6:30 – 8 pm Cub Scout Committee Mtg. 7 – 8 pm Adult Choir	5 8:30 am – 8:30 pm Prayer Vigil 11:30 am UMW Christmas Potluck – Searle's 6:00 p.m. Bible Study	6 Afternoon Set for Breakfast With Mary and Joseph	7 8:30am – 1:00pm Breakfast with Mary and Joseph
8 2nd Sunday of Advent Angel Tree gifts returned 9:50 am S.S. gathering Missions Project – After Second Service 3:30 pm MYF shopping and dinner	9 6:00 pm Cup of Joseph 6:30 pm Praise Team	10 6:00 p.m. Candy Packing Potluck	11 9 – 2 pm Quilting 6 – 6:45 pm Children's C-mas Program Practice 5:30 – 6:30pm Bear Den 7 – 8 pm Adult Choir	12 6 pm Bible Study	13	14 9:00 am UMW Cookie Walk & Mini Bazaar 9:00 am (Children's C-mas Program Practice Tentative) 1:00 – 7:00 pm Angel Tree gifts pick-up
15 3rd Sunday of Advent <u>Children's Christmas</u> <u>Program Both Services</u>	16 9:00 am Staff meeting 10:30 am Bible Study 6:30 pm Praise Team	17 2:00 – 4:00 pm ERF 6:00 – 9:00 pm Cub Scout Pack meeting	18 9 – 2 pm Quilting	19 6:00 pm Bible Study	20 January newsletter deadline	21 7:00 pm Christmas service (carols and message)
22 4th Sunday of Advent First day of winter Blood Pressure Checks 5:30pm Christmas Cantata	23 6:00 pm Cup of Joseph	24 7:00 and 11:00 pm Christmas Eve service (carols and communion)	25 Christmas Office closed	26	27	28
29 9:00 am Sunday school 10:00 am Worship	30	31				